**What do you think Differentiation means?**

Here are some examples of different definitions:

By differentiation the authors mean making changes, from small changes to larger ones, which enable children to learn from the school curriculum, designed for their age group, with their peers in an inclusive schooling system.

<http://www.down-syndrome.net/library/dsii/16/07/>

The best way to meet pupil’s different learning needs is to deliver the curriculum in a number of different ways; to differentiate the vehicle by which the skills, knowledge and concepts arrive, as well as presenting a range of tasks. The reason for doing this is because it ensures the maximum amount of pupil involvement, ie pupil planning, pupil assessment and pupil decision-making. In fact, the three can be fitted into a logical progression of teach, practice and assess:

‘The key to the differentiated curriculum is the flexible use by teachers of a wide range of activities and lesson organisations.’

<http://www.pearsonpublishing.co.uk/education/samples/S_494342.pdf>

Differentiation is not more class or home work, it is taking a regular curriculum topic and exploring it in greater depth and complexity. This means instead of learning algebraic formulas and practicing them in a classroom setting, through the use of worksheets and the text book, you might apply them to "real life" situations.

<http://www.k12.hi.us/~gtstate/the_role_of_the_teacher.htm>

Differentiation is the recognition of and commitment to plan for student differences. A differentiated classroom provides different avenues to acquire content, to process or make sense of information and ideas, and to develop products. The goals of a differentiated classroom are to maximize student growth and to promote individual student success.

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/hottlinx/tier1/faq/faq.htm>

Differentiation is the matching of work to the differing capabilities of individuals or groups of pupils in order to extend their learning.

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Questions for personal reflection:

1. What is your definition of 'differentiation?

2. Which of the definitions above best meets your idea of differentiation?